Rakudai Kishi no Cavalry

Created by Soramichi Megumu & Misora Riki

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Chapter 17: A KNIGHT'S PRIDE
落第騎士の
英雄譚
キャバルリイ
FOR WHOSE SAKE IS SHE SWINGING THAT SWORD--?
ORIGINAL WORK: MISORA RIKU
MANGA: SORAMICHI MEGUMU
CHARACTER DESIGN: WON
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ALRIGHT, THANKS FOR WAITING EVERYONE!

THE FIRST MATCH IN THE SIXTH ARENA WILL NOW BEGIN!

LOOKS LIKE BLOOD WILL BE RAINING DOWN TODAY TOO!

ONCE WE GET TO THE THIRD MATCH, I'LL BE THE USUAL YURI-CHAN THAT EVERYONE LOVES~

LEAVING THAT ASIDE, LET'S INTRODUCE THE FIGHTERS!

HE'S THE F-RANK KNIGHT THAT EVERY-ONE'S BEEN WATCHING CLOSELY, AFTER WINNING A PERFECT TEN OUT OF TEN FIGHTS!

FIRST, IT'S FIRST-YEAR CONTENDER KUROGANE IKKI!

WHAT KIND OF BLAZER IS SHE~?

WE HAVE ALMOST NO INFORMATION ABOUT THAT ON HER!

AND HIS OPPONENT IS THIRD-YEAR CONTENDER AYATSUJI AYASE

THIS D-RANK KNIGHT, LIKE CONTENDER KUROGANE, IS A SWORD WIELDER

WHO'S WON HER MATCHES THUS FAR WITH ONLY SWORD TECHNIQUES!

WHAT WILL SHE SHOW US IN THIS MATCH!?

SHE DIDN'T APPEAR IN ANY OF THE REGULAR MATCHES LAST YEAR, AND

LIKE WE SAID, SHE'S BEEN WINNING WITH ONLY SWORD TECHNIQUES.

SINCE I MESSED WITH HIM BEFORE THE MATCH, AND DID SOMETHING SO DISGRACEFUL,
HE MUST BE ANGRY WITH ME...
...WHAT A SCARY FACE.

HE'LL PROBABLY ESCAPE MY TRAP...
IF HE DOESN'T LOSE ANY COMPOSURE RIGHT NOW,
... BUT THAT'S BETTER FOR ME.

OKAY EVERYONE

PLEASE CHEER THEM ON!

(MATCH START!!)

LET's GO AHEAD!!

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Here he comes!

GAH

GAAAH!

WHAT DID SHE JUST DO!?
WH- WHAT HAP- PENED!?
CONTENDER KUROGANE WAS SUD- DENLY CUT ALL OVER!?

NO MATTER HOW SMALL THE CUT, I CAN TURN IT INTO A SERIOUS INJURY.

ONCE I WOUND AN OPPONENT, I CAN REOPEN THAT WOUND WHENEVER I WANT.

BY FREELY OPENING THE SCARS I PUT IN THE AIR, I CAN CREATE BLADES OF WIND.

IN THE SAME WAY, I CAN PLACE CUTS MIDAIR.

THIS IS MY NOBLE ART

MARK OF THE WIND

THIS IS THE ABILITY OF MY DEVICE, HIZUME...

WITH IT, I HAVE THE POWER TO PRODUCE SWORD CUTS AT WILL.

IT'S CHEATING OF COURSE, AND IT WON'T MAKE THE DECISIVE BLOW.

BEFORE MEETING KUROGANE-KUN LAST NIGHT, I PUT DOWN HUNDREDS OF SCARS IN THIS ARENA.

THAT WOUND WILL END THE MATCH!

BUT IF HIZUME HITS KUROGANE-KUN'S BODY DIRECTLY,

GAH!?

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AN OPENING!

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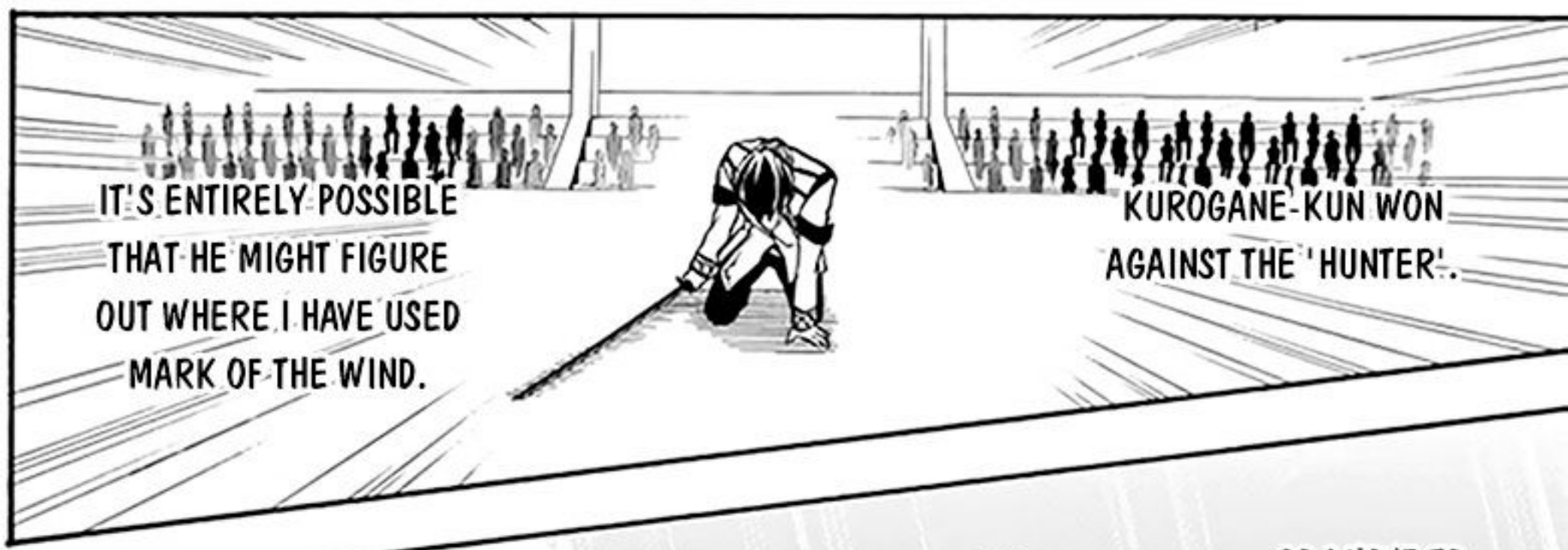
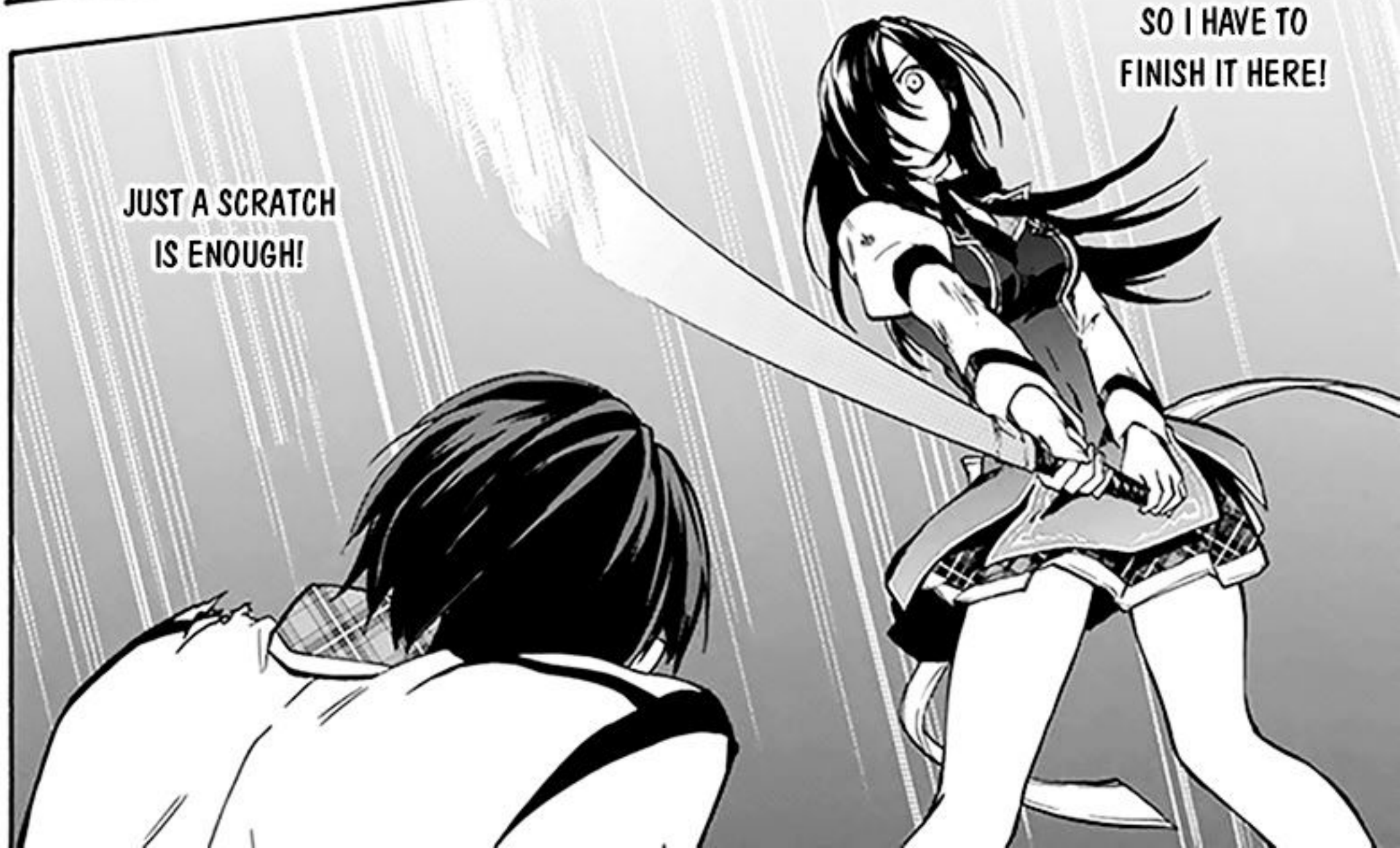

IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT HE MIGHT FIGURE OUT WHERE I HAVE USED MARK OF THE WIND.
KUROGANE-KUN WON AGAINST THE 'HUNTER'.


SO I HAVE TO FINISH IT HERE!
JUST A SCRATCH IS ENOUGH!

KUH!
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A SWORD THAT HARMLESS...
HE'S WAVING HIS SWORD TO BUY TIME AND PUSH ME BACK!
EVEN I CAN KNOCK IT ASIDE!

!?

WHY CAN'T I REACH HIM, EVEN THOUGH I'M SO CLOSE... HOW CAN HE STILL STAY SO FOCUSED...!?

HE HAS TO BE LOSING HIS COOL...

IT CAN'T BE, HE LURED ME IN!?

—!?

EH?

...THANK GOOD-NESS.

IT LOOKS LIKE
YOU'RE THE KIND OF PERSON I THOUGHT YOU WERE AFTER ALL.

IN MY MATCH THAT YOU'LL BE SUPER-VISING TODAY...
SENSEI ...

A FEW HOURS AGO

MY OPPONENT WILL DEFINITELY CHEAT.

WAI--
EH?
tremble
Explain it in detail!?
WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?

FROM THAT

I FIGURED THAT AYATSUJI-SAN'S ABILITY WAS TO ARBITRARILY PLACE SLASHES IN THE AIR.

EVEN THOUGH I HEARD THE SOUND OF A SWORD, SHE DIDN'T MAKE A MOVE AS THE FENCE WAS CUT.

SO SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENED...

SHE'S PROBABLY PLACED TRAPS ALL OVER THE ARENA.

IF SHE HAS SUCH AN ABILITY,

TRUE... EVEN THOUGH SENSEI TRUSTS YOU...

BUT MY TESTIMONY ALONE ISN'T PROOF.

IF IT'S TRUE, IT WOULD BE A HUGE PROBLEM, YOU KNOW.

I CERTAINLY DON'T THINK SOMEONE WHO'D MEDDLE WITH YOU LIKE THAT WOULD LIMIT HERSELF TO CLEAN TACTICS, BUT...

IF SHE CHEATS, I'LL STOP THE MATCH IMMEDIATELY—

NO.

BUT I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

SENSEI WILL KEEP AN EYE OUT.

I'D LIKE YOU NOT TO CALL OUT THE CHEATING.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?

THEN WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME ALL OF THIS RIGHT NOW!?

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wha?

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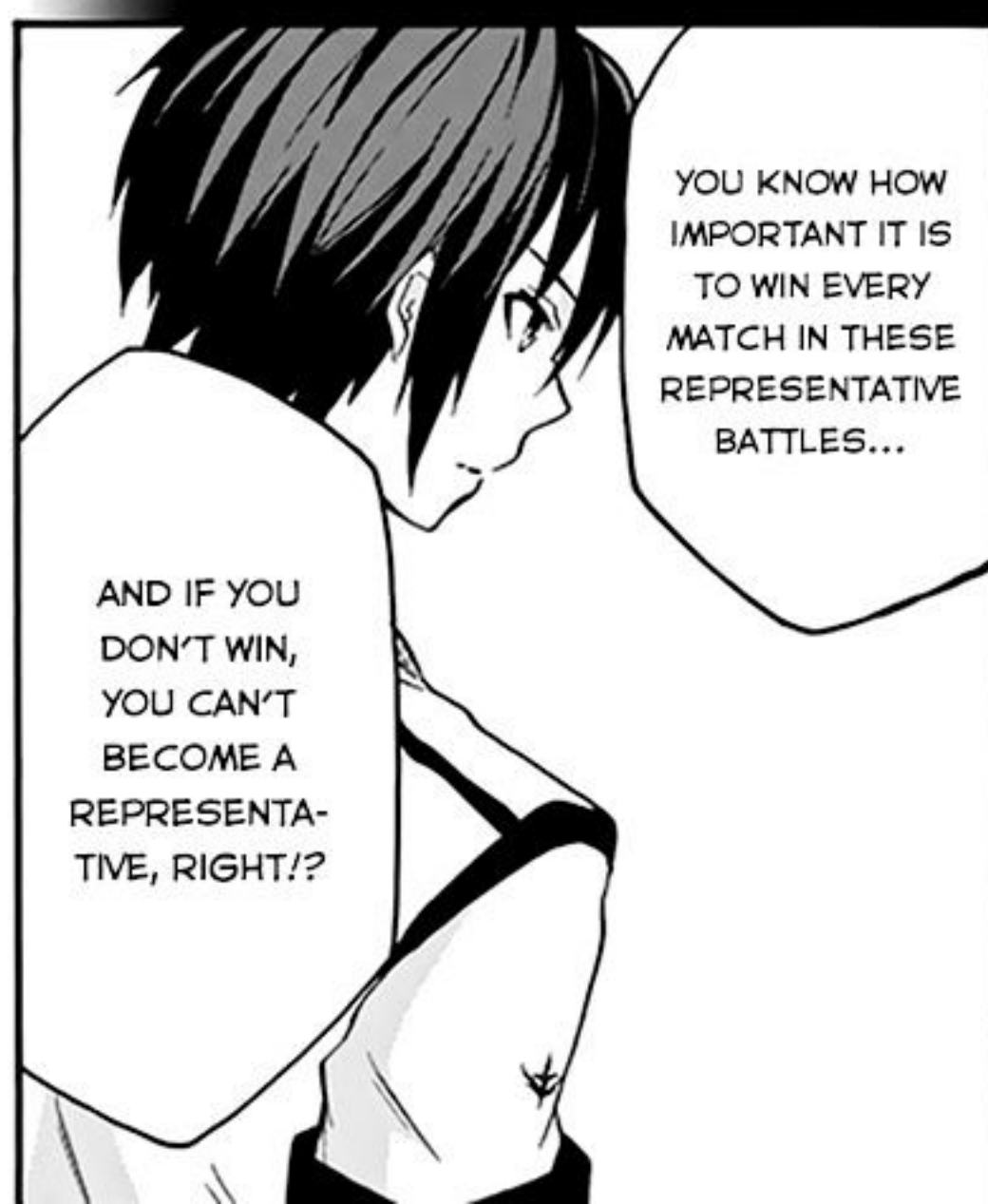
BUT... I'D LIKE YOU NOT TO DO SO.

OREKI-SENSEI, YOU'D PROBABLY NOTICE AYATSUJI-SAN'S CHEATING AND STOP THE MATCH EVEN IF I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.

YES.



AND HOW MUCH YOU GAMBLED TO BARELY GAIN A FAIR CHANCE THIS YEAR.

I KNOW THAT THOSE UNREASONABLE ADULTS ABRUPTLY TOOK A YEAR AWAY FROM YOU

--

.....

BECAUSE I WANT TO BELIEVE IN HER.

DESPITE THAT,

WHY ARE YOU BOWING YOUR HEAD TO ME FOR THE BENEFIT OF AN OPPONENT WHO'S BREAKING A KNIGHT'S BIG-GEST TABOO?

BUT IS THAT REALLY GOOD ENOUGH?

I'LL CER-TAINLY WIN THIS MATCH.

IF I CUT TIES WITH HER CLEANLY LIKE MY FRIEND TOLD ME TO,

AND THAT IS?

BUT I KNOW ONE THING.

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT SINCE DAWN... AND I COULDN'T FIND AN ANSWER...

THAT IN MY HEART, I DON'T WANT TO CUT TIES WITH HER.

SOMETHING HAS DRIVEN AYATSUJI-SAN TO BE THIS DESPERATE. SHE'S JUST LOST SIGHT OF HERSELF...

THAT'S WHY I'VE DECIDED

THAT IT'S NOT THE AYATSUJI-SAN THAT I SAW LAST NIGHT, BUT THE ONE WHO I SEE EVERY DAY THAT I'LL BELIEVE.

HER WORDS OF PRAISE FOR MY ROUGH HANDS...

HER HAPPY SMILE AS SHE LEARNED HER FATHER'S SWORDSMANSHIP...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THOSE WERE ALL LIES.

SO SENSEI

GIVE ME ONE LAST CHANCE TO SEE HER TRUE INTENT.

I WANT TO BELIEVE IN HER.

WHAT KIND OF KNIGHT WOULD REFUSE AFTER HEARING SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

JEEZ...

YOUR PRECIOUS FRIEND —...

GO SAVE THAT PERSON...

WE SHOULD'VE SPOKEN WITH OUR SWORDS FROM THE BEGINNING.

IN THE END, I'M THE TYPE WHO CAN SEE INTO A PERSON'S HEART ONLY THROUGH SWORDSMANSHIP...

HOW COULD I POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND SOMEONE THROUGH JUST WORDS?

I COULDN'T REALIZE THE FEELINGS OF THE ONE I LOVE FOR AN ENTIRE MONTH.

I WAS WONDERING WHAT YOU WERE GOING TO SAY.

AREN'T YOU SPITTING OUT NONSENSE AFTER GETTING CUT UP SO BADLY?

I DID SOMETHING WRONG?

YOUR SWORDSMANSHIP, YOUR MOVEMENT, EVERYTHING IS MESSED UP.

NOT JUST WHAT I TAUGHT YOU, YOU CAN'T EVEN DO THE THINGS YOU WERE GOOD AT BEFORE.

IT'S HARDLY NONSENSE.

NO MATTER HOW WICKED YOU PRETEND TO BE, YOU CAN'T FOOL YOUR OWN SPIRIT.
WITH A WAVERING HEART, YOU CAN'T BRING OUT THE REAL STRENGTH OF YOUR SWORD.
AYATSUJI-SAN, IN TRUTH, YOU HAVE MORE PRIDE THAN YOU THINK.
TH-
THAT'S NOT TRUE!

WHAT HAPPENED TWO YEARS AGO MADE ME REALIZE!

NO MATTER HOW PROUD YOU ARE, IF YOU LOSE A FIGHT, IT ALL COMES TO NOTHING!

IF YOU CAN'T WIN, THEN YOU CAN'T PROTECT ANYTHING!

AND TAKE IT ALL BACK !!!

SO I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO WIN! I'LL WIN—...

JUST LIKE HOW
I USED TO BE.

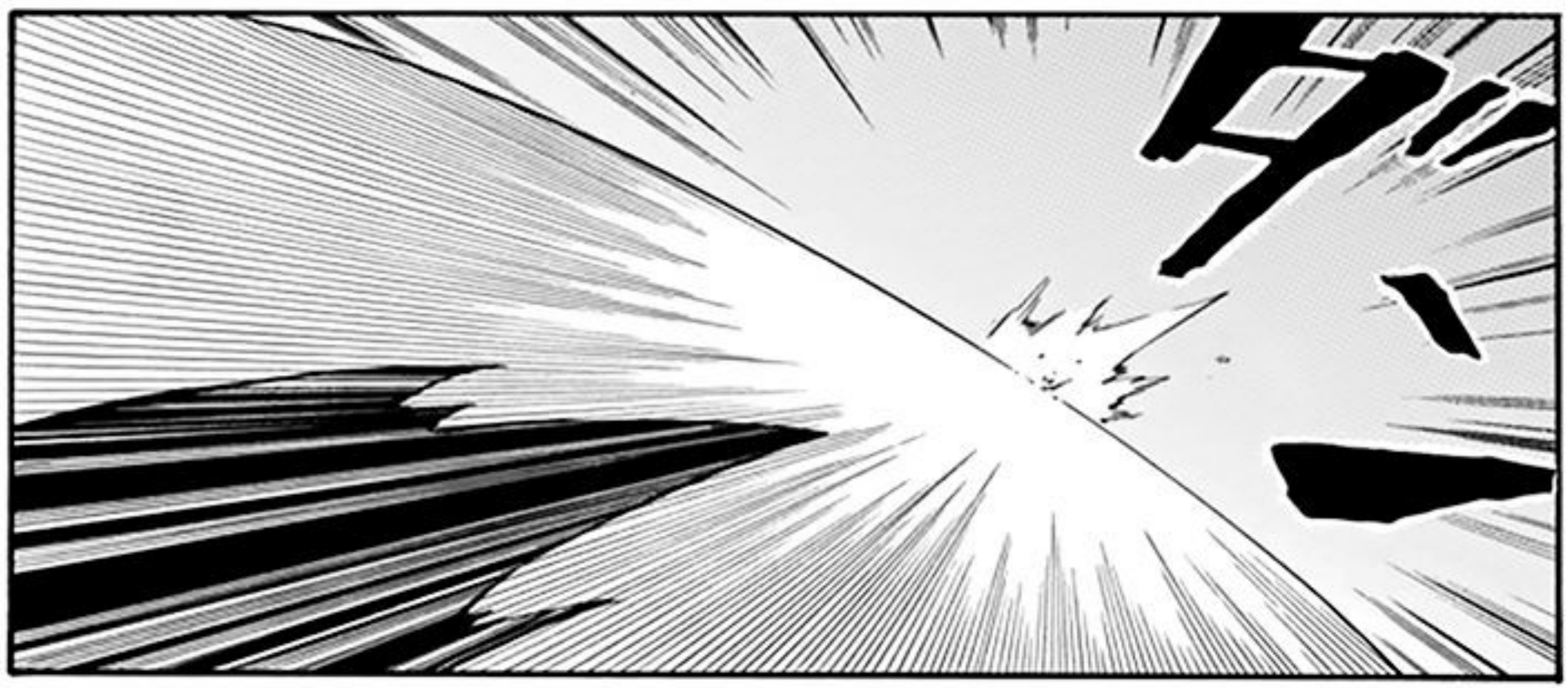
TELLING HERSELF
THOSE WORDS
DESPERATELY.

CLOSING HER EARS
TO THE CRIES OF
HER OWN HEART...

WITH MY WEAKNESS, I BRING BACK YOUR PRIDE!

I'M DOING SOMETHING WRONG ...!?
THERE'S NO WAY MY HEART IS WAVERING.

HERE I GO,
AYATSUJI-SAN.



NO MATTER WHAT I DO,

I HAVE TO TAKE BACK THE DOJO, AND BRING FATHER PEACE!

SINCE KUROGANE-KUN IS SAYING ALL THIS...

I'LL USE THE 'WRONG' THAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT TO FINISH THIS MATCH!

!?
HE OUTRAN MARK OF THE WIND!?

SO LIGHT! AT LAST HE'S USING HIS TRUMP CARD, ITTOU SHURA.

WHAT AMAZING SPEED!

IT'S RAISING SPEED BY EMITTING MAGIC POWER, JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.

ITTOU SHURA IS ALREADY SEALED...

HOW!?

NOPE, THAT'S NOT ITTOU SHURA!

THERE'S PROBABLY A REASON HE CAN'T PERFORM ITTOU SHURA RIGHT NOW, SO HE'S USING THIS AS A SUBSTITUTE.

ほぉ

FOR SOMEONE LIKE KUROGANE-KUN WITH LOW MAGIC POWER,

USING THIS ONCE OR TWICE WILL LEAVE HIM EMPTY, SO HE DOESN'T NORMALLY—

I WAS TOO FOCUSED ON ITTOU SHURA!

BUT IT'S NOT OVER YET!

THAT'S MY CHANCE TO WIN!
THIS ONE TIME!
IF I CAN SURVIVE THIS, KUROGANE-KUN WON'T HAVE ANY MAGIC POWER LEFT!
HAAAAAA!

EH?

FOURTH SECRET SWORD — SHINKIROU (MIRAGE WOLF)

IT'S ONE OF KUROGANE-KUN'S ORIGINAL SWORD TECHNIQUES, SHINKIROU.

THROUGH FOOTWORK, HE ABRUPTLY CHANGES HIS PACE TO CREATE AN AFTERIMAGE IN FRONT OF HIM AS HE RUNS,

AND MAKE THE OPPONENT MISTIME HIS APPROACH.

I THINK HIS GOAL WAS ALWAYS TO WHITTLE DOWN HER PHYSICAL STRENGTH.

WHA.

ahaha

THAT CAN'T BE IT! HE'S ALREADY CUT ME DOWN.

BECAUSE KURO-GANE-KUN WASN'T JUST TRYING TO WIN NORMALLY TODAY.

...

"WHAT"?

.....

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO...?

EVEN IF I DON'T, YOU CAN'T FIGHT ANYMORE, AYATSUJI-SAN.

DON'T PLAY DUMB ...

WHY AREN'T YOU ATTACKING ...!?

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS ...!

DO YOU STILL WANT TO CONTINUE THIS FIGHT THAT YOU'RE NOT PROUD OF?
AYATSUJI-SAN.
I'M OUT OF STRENGTH...
EVEN THOUGH FATHER WON'T BE SAVED IF I DON'T WIN IN THIS MATCH...

UP UNTIL NOW, NO MATTER HOW BITTER THE TRAINING,
I'VE BEEN ABLE TO STAND UP BECAUSE I HAD MY PRIDE, CARRYING THE SWORD OF AYATSUJI.

PRIDE.

I REALLY DON'T WANT TO FIGHT LIKE THIS ANYMORE.
I SEE...

... I'VE LOST.

.....

KUROGANE-KUN, YOU'RE RIGHT.

FORGET ABOUT SURRENDERING TO YOU, I COULDN'T EVEN UPHOLD MY OWN VOW.

IT'S PATHETIC, ISN'T IT?

IT'S NOT PATHETIC AT ALL.

THAT'S YOUR STRENGTH.

YOU'VE WAVERED, DONE BAD THINGS, AND LOST SIGHT OF YOURSELF.

BUT YOU HAVEN'T SURREN-DERED.

WHAT'S DRIVEN YOU INTO A CORNER LIKE THIS?

WHAT DID SWORD EATER STEAL FROM YOU?

TELL ME, AYATSUJI-SAN.

I'LL GO AND TAKE IT BACK.

WHAT WILL YOU DO ONCE YOU KNOW?

... I CAN'T TELL YOU. IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, KUROGANE-KUN.

EH?

IN THAT CASE, I'LL INVESTIGATE.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR ANYONE ELSE TO BECOME LIKE FATHER.

YOU WERE THE ONE STALKING ME IN THE BEGINNING, SO IT'S FAIR.

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO COMPLAIN.

WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...

I'LL FOLLOW YOU AROUND, AYATSUJI-SAN. I'LL SNOOP ABOUT AND DISCOVER EVERYTHING.

... WHY?

DESPITE THAT

WHY...?

I...

BETRAYED YOU.

I'VE DONE SUCH A CRUEL THING TO YOU...

BECAUSE WE'RE FRIENDS.

I DON'T NEED A REASON TO WIPE AWAY THESE TEARS.

THEY'RE THE SAME

WHEN PEOPLE SPIT ON THEM AND RILE THEM UP WITH INSULTS,

THEY WON'T DRAW THEIR SWORDS FOR SUCH TRIVIAL THINGS.

WHO GAVE THESE WOUNDS TO YOU!"

"I WON'T FORGIVE THE ONE

AHH

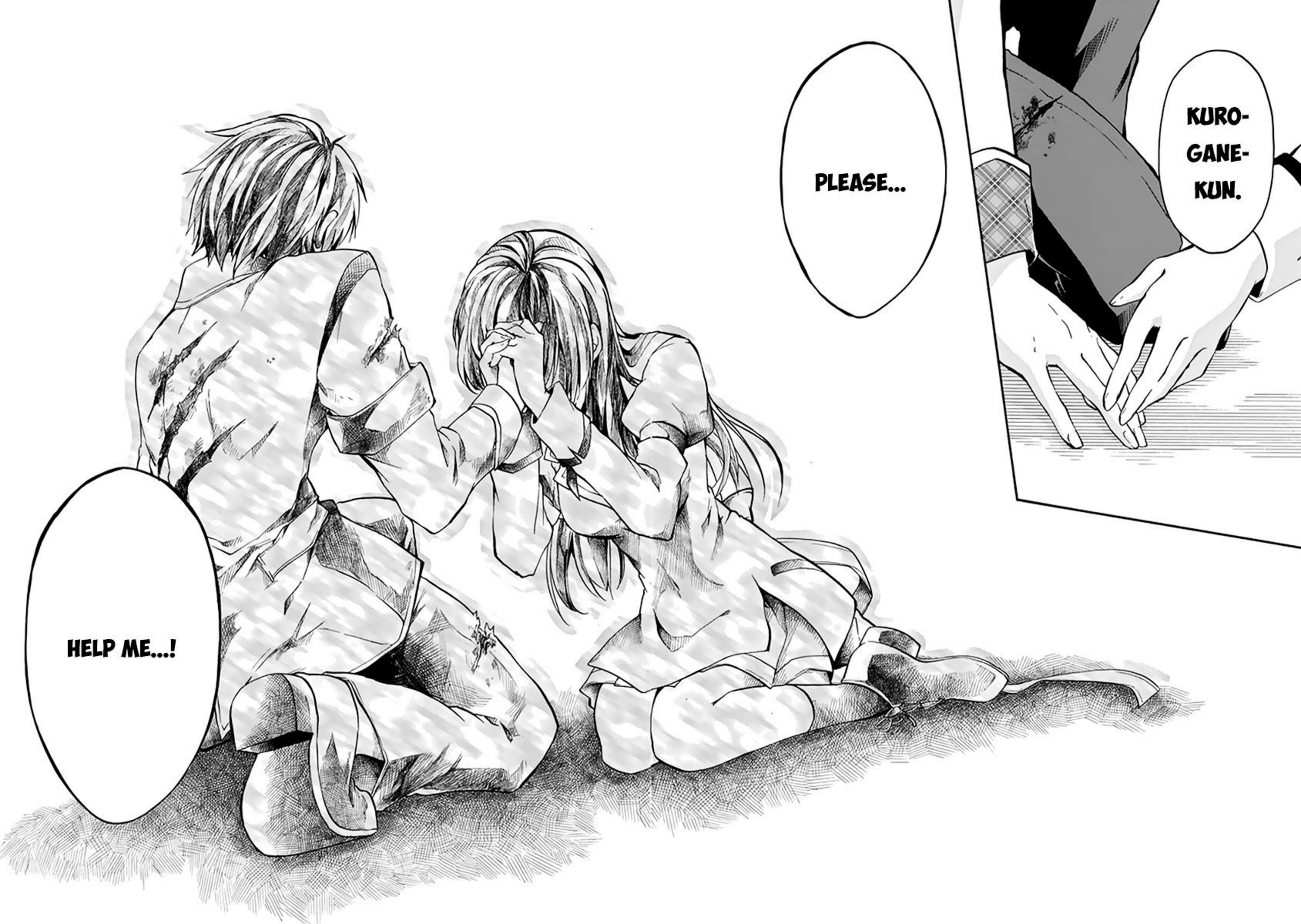
I SEE.

BUT IF IMPORTANT COMRADES ARE HURT, THEY DON'T HESITATE TO DRAW THEIR SWORDS.

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO REACH.

THIS IS THE GOAL THAT

MY PRIDE.


HELP ME...!
PLEASE...
KURO-GANE-KUN.

THOSE ARE THE WORDS I WANTED TO HEAR.

TO BE CONTINUED

9/3